

Commerce and Trade IGA – Draft

Issue:

1. Manufacturing, agriculture and tourism are highly dependent on the maintenance, expansion, and coordination of our transportation systems (highway, rail, air, and water).
2. Lack of infrastructure capacity for free flow of goods; i.e., border congestion, grade separations, additional border crossings, etc.
3. There is a need for improved connectivity for all modes.
4. Need to examine public/private responsibilities for funding and maintaining the transportation system.
5. Security issues pervade all forms of transportation.
6. Improving border crossing capability is an immediate issue for economic survival of Michigan and the rest of the country.
7. Need to look at both public and private sector in regards to border crossing; e.g., drivers being prepared at crossings; bridge authorities have technology to speed up the process but haven't advertised it adequately. Using the technology is not mandatory.
8. Michigan's peninsular geography poses unique challenges to trade and commerce.

Goals:

1. Improve and expand the border crossing between Michigan and Canada.
2. Increase capacity and efficiency of transportation infrastructure to enhance movement of goods and materials.
3. Use public funds or incentives to stimulate private/public partnerships when public benefits can be demonstrated.
4. Consider manufacturing, agriculture and tourism as key customers for Michigan's transportation system.
5. Focus on alternatives to resolve the invasive species issue in Michigan waters.
6. Increase intermodal in Michigan's transportation mix.
7. Preserve our existing general aviation airports.

Actions:

1. Examine use of technology at border crossings to reduce delays and form a working group for that task from the stakeholders. Conduct inspections of cars, trains, and trucks at locations other than directly at the borders (an off site inspection).
2. Examine impacts on futuristic travel modes and movement of commerce.
3. Develop state-wide strategic highway/rail grade separation program and ways to fund it.
4. Work with other modes of transportation, besides shipping, to resolve the invasive species issue.
5. Continue to pursue congestion relief in addition to maintenance projects.
6. Develop a list of at risk general aviation airports and strategies for keeping them open.
7. Work with the short line railroads to address 260,000 pound rail cars impact on railroad bridges.
8. Railroads work with state and local units of government with the disposition of abandoned railroad right-of-way.